

Numbers Chart

The table below explains the maximum group size rules graphically:

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CERTIFIED CHILD CARE			
Related or Provider's Own Children Under 7 Years of Age	Non-related Children Under 7 years of age	Additional Children Ages 7 and older	Maximum Number of Children*
0	3	Additional children ages 7 through 12 (if special needs up to 19) may be cared for as long as the maximum total number of children is not exceeded	6
1	3		6
2	3		6
3	3		6
4	2		6
5	1		6
6	0		6

WHEN CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 2 YEARS ARE PRESENT	
Number of Children Under 2 Years of Age	Maximum Number of Children*
0	6
1	6
2	6
3	5
4	4

*The maximum number does not include the provider's certified child care operator's natural, adopted, step or foster children 7 years of age and older or any children 7 and older who live in the residence.

DCF 202.02(12m) "Operator's own children" means a certified family child care operator's natural, adopted, step, and foster children, and any children who reside in the operator's home.

The state law, s. 48.65 (1), Stats., states: If a provider takes care of 4 or more children under the age of 7 who are not related to the provider, for compensation, the provider must obtain from the Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Early Care and Regulation a license to operate a child care center. This means that if a certification applicant is caring for 4 or more children under the age of 7 years, that are unrelated to the provider, the agency does not have the authority to approve the applicant because s/he is violating the licensing law. The applicant must comply with certification standards DCF 202 before certification may be granted.

The definition for 'provider' in the statutes refers to 'entity', not an individual provider. This means, if two individuals care for children in one setting, the law does not allow the number of children to be doubled.